

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 1912.—Copyright, 1912, by the Sun Printing and Publishing Association.

New York spending \$1,500,000 on fresh air for children

THIS CITY NOW LEADS WORLD
IN SUMMER OUTINGS FOR
NEEDY YOUNGSTERS.



NEW YORK'S benevolent expenditure this summer to provide its indigent children with health and pleasure trips will reach the unprecedented figure of \$1,500,000, which sum represents in average the cost of 1,500,000 outings.

One million of this amount is appropriated outright by the municipality, and in this it sets a record mark for the cities of the world. The other half million is the gift of the generous thousands who prove their philanthropy in practical ways. Two estates, the Goodhue and W. K. Vanderbilt on Staten Island and Long Island respectively, have been turned over to private charitable organizations, and this adds nearly half a million to health and happiness values for the summer. The outings planned embrace seashore excursions, trips to the mountain camps, rides on ferries and other harbor boats, free trolley rides to the parks and playgrounds and day and week visits to the homes situated by the nearby beaches.

Realizing that relief from the almost intolerable conditions under which the children in the tenement house districts live through the hot months is inimical to the health and happiness of its future citizens, the municipality has placed whatever of open space may be secured at the disposal of those who otherwise would be obliged to have their play in the streets and sidewalks in an already congested district. Also by setting forth definite arrangements for recreation and placing these under trained workers and officials the city government endeavors to make life more livable for those not surrounded by the most rosy conditions.

New York Leads the World.

New York leads the whole world as a city where private enterprise provides for fresh air homes and outings for the poor children. This year \$500,000 will be spent in manning, provisioning and otherwise administering the sixty-eight breathing spots in the State and at nearby sections, where the little tots who now are not infrequently compelled to sleep six and seven in a room will get an opportunity to expand their lungs in the free air and light of heaven.

These fresh air homes on seashore and hillside are not, however, the only places where the children may be released from the awful conditions in which their daily lives are spent. Many of these sixty-eight places are supported by private individuals, churches or societies, whose aim and intent is the alleviation of the infant population.

During the past ten years, at least, the plan, scope and extent of this work, both individual and municipal, have been steadily increased, and the year 1912 will see the greatest extent both in point of outlay and in number of cases to be handled. The various phases of summer relief work are so multifarious that it is impossible to describe them all in the limits of one article.

There is work for the benefit of the aged indigents as well as for the infants. Weekend excursions are being planned for those whose salaries do not permit them to take vacations; homes for convalescents from the charity wards of the hospitals are being planned in greater number than before, but the charity which is receiving the greatest amount of thought, support and interest is that which provides for the entertainment and physical relief of that part of the population under 14 years of age.

In one such institution alone the appropriation for the care of children during the summer months has been set at \$100,000. Another such institution, whose province includes convalescent children as well as those who are suffering from want of a breath of air, plans to spend \$100,000 in the summer months on the three homes which it maintains. It is impossible to estimate closely what will be spent in the more individual of these institutions, as they are partly self-supporting in many cases, the preference, however, being given to visitors who can pay nothing.

Because the increased appropriations for the work, which permit more children being cared for than ever before, the plans for this season are augmented for another cause. It has been regretted

in previous years that there was not sufficient accommodation for worthy cases, and for that reason many children were refused who would otherwise have been taken.

Within a few weeks two large estates have been turned over to the authorities for the use of the children, one of these being in Staten Island and the other at Great Neck, L. I. The Goodhue estate on Staten Island is in "ready to use" condition. The house is spacious and roomy, the grounds are very extensive, the location is healthful, and with the gift of this estate the equivalent of \$200,000 is added to the plant of the Children's Aid Society.

The gift of the Vanderbilt home at Great Neck places a large estate for the benefit of the little patients over a wider circle of influence than the Goodhue. This home has accommodations for twenty patients, and entrance is obtained not through the recommendations of any one charitable or other organization but by the various settlement workers throughout the city of greater New York to the board of managers. This board is made up entirely of women, headed by Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt and Mrs. Willard Parker.

Day Trippers' Home Needed.

Crowded conditions in the vicinity of Seabreeze, the seashore home of the Association for the Improvement of the Condition of the Poor at Coney Island, make it imperative that another home fully as extensive as the present one be built immediately. The new building will be for the accommodation of the "day trippers" and the old building for those who are to stay one or two weeks, according to the arrangement made by the board of managers.

Besides the seashore and mountain resorts, the city of New York has arranged parks and playgrounds all over the municipality, so that many thousands who are not able to avail themselves of the summer camps and fresh air homes will be kept off the streets under the

watchful care of those trained to help them make the best of unfortunate conditions. Organized effort on the part of the municipality began in 1891; in 1898, however, the necessity to care for the children was so far admitted that departmental interest was secured.

The work was taken up in the Board of Education that year and in the Park Department in 1903. Now the work in the Board of Education is highly and effectively organized under the direct supervision of a district superintendent in charge of vacation schools, playgrounds and evening recreation centres.

A system of supervisors, assistants and instructors with proper gradations has been established. The vacation playgrounds are to be open from 1 o'clock in the afternoon until half past 5 o'clock from the time the schools close and for eight weeks. At 417 West Thirty-eighth street, the Children's Aid School at 5 Third street, the Music School Settlement, and at 340 West Forty-eighth street, the Neighborhood House, roof playgrounds have been established which are open from 7:30 to 10 o'clock in the evening for eight weeks. The establishment of the athletic fields at Crotona Park in The Bronx and Astoria, Staten Island, with the work of the Public Schools Athletic League (both boys' and girls' branches) are among the most important contributions made to the outdoor recreation and physical interests of the children of the city.

Under the Dock Department there are five recreation piers which are open to the children for daily play. They are at West 129th street, West Fifth street, East 112th, East Twenty-fourth and Third street. For the proper development and management of the city's relief plans \$1,000,000 is spent every year and the plans are for still greater extension. The work in New York has passed from the "playground" to the "recreation" stage and the plans for this city are as follows:



INTO
THE
SUNLIGHT
FROM THE
SLUMS.

from the different institutions in New York were given their annual automobile outing. This had in previous years been done by the late Col. John Jacob Astor, and this year his son was the benefactor of the children. Men and women of means donated their motor cars for the occasion and 288 vehicles were offered and used on this trip. The children went down Broadway to Forty-sixth street, and meeting their hosts proceeded to a general assembling place in Union Square.

Then the parade proceeded down Fifth avenue, through the Washington Arch and to the Bowery, across the Williamsburg Bridge and along the Ocean Parkway to Coney Island. The little guests are selected by the Orphans' Automobile Day Association of New York. The president of this association is Mrs. J. D. Smith and the vice-president W. J. Morgan.

this number runs up into the millions. Each year the number of the homes having a doctor on the spot or requiring a doctor's examination as a prerequisite for admission has been increased until now only a few of the institutions are left unsafeguarded in this particular.

Including all the agencies as above mentioned, New York leads the world in its provision for the children. Other cities are developing plans along the same lines. Several have public playgrounds. Boston conducts a floating hospital, giving sea breezes to puny babies who are practically dying in the foul conditions of the tenement houses. Chicago spends a great deal of money and also provides summer camps along the lake front, and London, England, occupies a very high place in the amount of money spent, both by the County Council and by private charity, for the improvement of conditions of indigent children. The work in London, however, is not so much in the line of outings and fresh air work as it is in visiting the poor and spending money in the improvement of housing conditions.

Like many of the greatest philanthropic movements the fresh air work of this city got its impetus from the suffering of one family whose plight had been called to the attention of the relief department of a charity organization.



CHILDREN'S BEDROOM IN
THE COUNTRY.

A. Continued and extended work under the Board of Education—indoor playgrounds, roofs, courtyards, athletic fields and

B. One of the following alternatives:

- (1) Supervisor of recreation under each of the three Park Commissioners.
- (2) Supervisor of recreation under the Park Board with deputy.
- (3) Recreation bureau under the Park Board—members unpaid with executive staff.
- (4) Recreation commission under the Mayor—members unpaid with executive staff.

Besides providing athletic fields, vacant lot playgrounds, recreation piers and many breathing spaces which are classed as "yards," the Parks and Playgrounds Association of the city of New York, which has the summer relief work of the children in its care, provides daily excursions to Bronx and Van Cortlandt parks and also to the playground in Richmond Borough, which is located in West New Brighton, a trip which includes a sail on the ferry of nearly twenty-five minutes duration each way.

Vincent Astor Children's Benefactor.

In addition to the city work and the institutional work a great many excursions for the children are planned by individuals. One such excursion occurred last week. On Wednesday 4,000 children

Mr. Morgan has for some time been connected with motor racing and is an enthusiastic motorist. He says that the idea first came to him through the frequent requests made by youngsters as he was touring the country. "Say, mister, give us a ride!"

There are 117 homes and camps maintained by seventy-six agencies which offer recreational opportunities for the summer. The total capacity of these homes and camps is 8,993. The average length of season is about eleven weeks, although some of the homes are kept open six months. The average length of stay per child is a little less than two weeks. The total number of children served last year was a trifle more than 80,000 and with the increased facilities for this summer it is estimated that fully 100,000 children will be given from a week to ten days vacation at the seashore or the mountains. This, of course, is exclusive of the trips of one day's duration and those carried on by the city of New York. Even those best acquainted with the movement hesitate to attempt a close estimate of the numbers served by all the agencies. During the summer it is conceded that

There were ten in the family and the extent of the domicile was two rooms. I have led to investigation of the social conditions in that neighborhood and the organization of ocean parties in 1890 was the result.

Groups of 100 mothers and children

happily

THE KIND OF HOME FROM WHICH COME
SOME OF THE FRESH AIR YOUNGSTERS.
A CELLAR IN 14TH STREET. 11 IN FAMILY. ONE BED.

There were ten in the family and the extent of the domicile was two rooms. I have led to investigation of the social conditions in that neighborhood and the organization of ocean parties in 1890 was the result.

Groups of 100 mothers and children

happily

THE KIND OF HOME FROM WHICH COME
SOME OF THE FRESH AIR YOUNGSTERS.
A CELLAR IN 14TH STREET. 11 IN FAMILY. ONE BED.

There were ten in the family and the extent of the domicile was two rooms. I have led to investigation of the social conditions in that neighborhood and the organization of ocean parties in 1890 was the result.

Groups of 100 mothers and children

happily

THE KIND OF HOME FROM WHICH COME
SOME OF THE FRESH AIR YOUNGSTERS.
A CELLAR IN 14TH STREET. 11 IN FAMILY. ONE BED.

There were ten in the family and the extent of the domicile was two rooms. I have led to investigation of the social conditions in that neighborhood and the organization of ocean parties in 1890 was the result.

Groups of 100 mothers and children

happily

THE KIND OF HOME FROM WHICH COME
SOME OF THE FRESH AIR YOUNGSTERS.
A CELLAR IN 14TH STREET. 11 IN FAMILY. ONE BED.

There were ten in the family and the extent of the domicile was two rooms. I have led to investigation of the social conditions in that neighborhood and the organization of ocean parties in 1890 was the result.

Groups of 100 mothers and children

happily

THE KIND OF HOME FROM WHICH COME
SOME OF THE FRESH AIR YOUNGSTERS.
A CELLAR IN 14TH STREET. 11 IN FAMILY. ONE BED.

There were ten in the family and the extent of the domicile was two rooms. I have led to investigation of the social conditions in that neighborhood and the organization of ocean parties in 1890 was the result.

Groups of 100 mothers and children

happily

were taken once a week to Rockaway or Coney Island, and for those who could not leave the city during the day excursion tickets for a ride on the boats during the evening were provided. In a remarkably brief time the scope of these parties was widely extended and during the summer of 1890 twenty trips were planned. This provided for 11,500 beneficiaries.

Grew by Leaps and Bounds.

The People's Seaside Home was established in 1897. This consisted of two convenient houses which had been leased at Coney Island. From this time on the work extended by leaps and bounds. Trolley cars were at that time unknown to Coney Island, and the thirty-three parties which went down to the home travelled by steamboat to the Iron Pier and thence to their vacation place by train. In that year 17,518 mothers and children were provided for and trips were made three days a week.

The next advance step was the establishment of "stay parties." These consisted of sick mothers and babies who were kept at the home until they were well. In that year 63,745 persons were taken care of at a cost of \$44,905.36. This was the beginning of "Seabreeze," owned by the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor. After eleven years of fresh air work the association owns its own plant, a bright little domain by the sea. The staff of the home has been steadily increased and includes a kindergarten teacher and trained nurse, as well as a teacher of natural history and one in practical cooking and housekeeping.

The plant consists of three large buildings and a pavilion, with bathing facilities, including 1,000 bathing suits. Since the organization of the ocean parties 422,629 mothers and children have been taken on day outings. With the inception of the seaside home outings lasting from one to five weeks have been given to 44,534 convalescent persons. The method by which the visitors are selected is interesting. With the inundation of applications some plan by which the worthy should receive the benefits had to be developed.

By 1905 the association had five special fresh air visitors and eighteen regular relief visitors in the tenement districts from morning till night every weekday selecting those who were most in need of fresh air outings. Last year 6,000 applicants were rejected after investigation. These persons either were able to pay for the benefits they sought or their physical needs were not as serious as those of thousands of others.

During the last five years special attention has been given to the development of the educational phases of the work. Instructions have been given not only in hospital care but in general home management.

The Children's Aid Society operates several summer charities. Its plans to take care of 10,000 this year, giving them from one to ten weeks outing at its health home, summer home, convalescent home, camp or other places. Their appropriations for the summer call for the expenditure of about \$75,000, \$12,000 of this going to the Children's Summer Home, \$10,000 to the Health Home, \$2,500 to the Sick Children's Mission, \$10,000 to the Boys' Camp, \$3,000 to the Martha Summer Home, \$3,000 to the Convalescent Children's Home, and the balance for incidentals of administration.

The Convalescent Children's Home is at Chappaqua, in Westchester county. There is no stated length of stay for the inmates, the child's residence depending on the weight gained and complete recovery.

The Children's Summer Home is located at Bath Beach, Long Island. This institution has accommodations for about 400 nursery children. Last season the little guests numbered 3,823. At the Health Home in Coney Island plans are being made for about 7,000 guests during this coming summer. This home stands on a beautiful plot of land, taking in a whole block of ocean front.

At Denerville, N. J., a boys' summer camp is maintained. The inmates are selected from the industrial schools of the city, 200 boys being entertained for a period of two weeks at a time. As the camp is operated for ten weeks, this provides health giving entertainment for a thousand boys this present year. The camp includes over sixty acres of cleared and wooded land, while the Rockaway River borders one side of the property, and the plant includes six rowboats and a canoe.

Thought Pigeon Was a Chicken.

One of the most pathetic incidents was noted last week, when a pigeon alighted on the grass plot back of the beach in one of these seashore homes. Several children were playing in the vicinity, and the attention of one diminutive New Yorker was attracted to the bird.

"Look what a funny chicken has come

happily

THE KIND OF HOME FROM WHICH COME
SOME OF THE FRESH AIR YOUNGSTERS.
A CELLAR IN 14TH STREET. 11 IN FAMILY. ONE BED.

There were ten in the family and the extent of the domicile was two rooms. I have led to investigation of the social conditions in that neighborhood and the organization of ocean parties in 1890 was the result.

Groups of 100 mothers and children

happily

THE KIND OF HOME FROM WHICH COME
SOME OF THE FRESH AIR YOUNGSTERS.
A CELLAR IN 14TH STREET. 11 IN FAMILY. ONE BED.

There were ten in the family and the extent of the domicile was two rooms. I have led to investigation of the social conditions in that neighborhood and the organization of ocean parties in 1890 was the result.

Groups of 100 mothers and children

happily

THE KIND OF HOME FROM WHICH COME
SOME OF THE FRESH AIR YOUNGSTERS.
A CELLAR IN 14TH STREET. 11 IN FAMILY. ONE BED.

There were ten in the family and the extent of the domicile was two rooms. I have led to investigation of the social conditions in that neighborhood and the organization of ocean parties in 1890 was the result.

Groups of 100 mothers and children

happily

THE KIND OF HOME FROM WHICH COME
SOME OF THE FRESH AIR YOUNGSTERS.
A CELLAR IN 14TH STREET. 11 IN FAMILY. ONE BED.

There were ten in the family and the extent of the domicile was two rooms. I have led to investigation of the social conditions in that neighborhood and the organization of ocean parties in 1890 was the result.

Groups of 100 mothers and children

happily

THE KIND OF HOME FROM WHICH COME
SOME OF THE FRESH AIR YOUNGSTERS.
A CELLAR IN 14TH STREET. 11 IN FAMILY. ONE BED.

There were ten in the family and the extent of the domicile was two rooms. I have led to investigation of the social conditions in that neighborhood and the organization of ocean parties in 1890 was the result.

Groups of 100 mothers and children

happily

THE KIND OF HOME FROM WHICH COME
SOME OF THE FRESH AIR YOUNGSTERS.
A CELLAR IN 14TH STREET. 11 IN FAMILY. ONE BED.

There were ten in the family and the extent of the domicile was two rooms. I have led to investigation of the social conditions in that neighborhood and the organization of ocean parties in 1890 was the result.

Groups of 100 mothers and children

happily

THE KIND OF HOME FROM WHICH COME
SOME OF THE FRESH AIR YOUNGSTERS.
A CELLAR IN 14TH STREET. 11 IN FAMILY. ONE BED.

There were ten in the family and the extent of the domicile was two rooms. I have led to investigation of the social conditions in that neighborhood and the organization of ocean parties in 1890 was the result.

Groups of 100 mothers and children

happily

THE KIND OF HOME FROM WHICH COME
SOME OF THE FRESH AIR YOUNGSTERS.
A CELLAR IN 14TH STREET. 11 IN FAMILY. ONE BED.